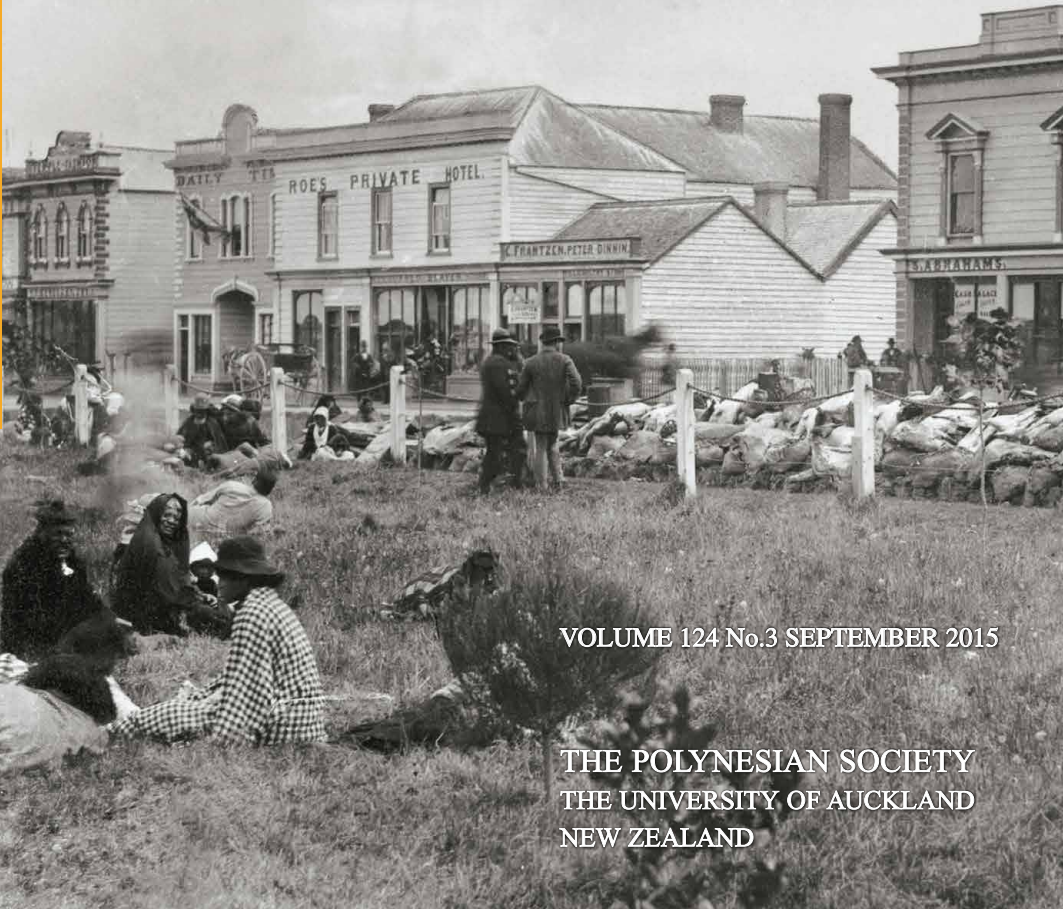


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THE POLYNESIAN SOCIETY
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

MINUTES OF THE 124th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE POLYNESIAN SOCIETY (INC.), 29 JULY 2015,
DEPARTMENT OF MĀORI STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND.

Present: Dr Richard Benton in the chair and ten members.

Apologies: Ethan Cochrane, Peter Sheppard, Dame Joan Metge, Ben Davies, Michael Goldsmith, Sean Mallon.

Benton/Carter: “That the apologies be sustained.” Agreed.

Minutes of 2014 AGM: Carter/Allen: “That the Minutes be received as a true account of the meeting.” Carried.

Presentation and Adoption of the Council’s Report

The Hon. President presented and spoke to the Council’s Annual Report

- The membership has decreased slightly which could be a result of online availability. Even though membership is declining, readership is going up. The Society relies heavily on the Institutional Subscriptions and these have markedly decreased which could be attributed to the Agents’ bundling of journals and that a major distribution agent (SWETS) has gone into liquidation. Payment from online providers helps with income revenue and prevented increases in subscriptions rates this year, which in this environment would be unwise. Annual dues and subscriptions cover production and postage of the *JPS* and the Society’s running expenses. Although member dues and subscription payments do not cover other expenses, income from other sources (e.g., royalties on publications) help cover these.
- The Society’s website and *Facebook* page are maintained by a designated Council member who posts *Journal* contents and information regarding membership, submission of manuscripts, etc. Contents and information regarding membership are also sent to several appropriate newsletters and websites. Publicity also comes from having the *Journal* online.
- The Society and its members benefit from the support of the University of Auckland that allows the Society to keep costs down. Specifically, the Department of Māori Studies provides the Society with its office and storage space, as well as access to office equipment; likewise, the Anthropology Department provides for the Hon. Editors and the *JPS*. These arrangements are not only economical but also very convenient and congenial.

Benton/Huntsman: “That the Report of Council be adopted.” Carried.

Annual Accounts have been completed for 2014 and were presented for information by the Treasurer Rangimarie Rawiri.

The Reviewers' report was attached to the Annual Accounts and the Treasurer noted:

- On p. 4 of the Finance Report it is noted in Income, Copyright and Royalty that \$995 received. This is incorrect. \$6588.38 received from JSTOR has been reflected in Sundry Income on p. 5.
- The Accounts are prepared on a cash basis—i.e., people who have not paid do not receive the journal. The Income derived from royalties and copyright fees has enabled us to maintain the membership fees at the current level but the decline in membership is a problem.
- The Council will continue to monitor the effect of online access to the *JPS* on subscription income and the extent to which payments from online providers compensates for any income decline.

Rawiri/Allen: "That the 2014 Accounts be accepted." Carried.

Honoraria

Benton/Reilly: "That the honoraria for the year 2015 be at the same rate as 2014, and that they be paid." Carried.

Presentation and Adoption of the Editor's Report

The Hon. Editors' report was presented and the following matters were highlighted.

- Over the last year Melinda Allen and Judith Huntsman have continued as Co-Editors, supported by the editorial team, including Lyn Carter and Ethan Cochrane as Book Review Editors, and Dorothy Brown as Assistant Editor. Arrangements with Hamish Macdonald, Production Manager, continue to be extremely satisfactory. Ben Davies has continued as webmaster, managing our *Facebook* page and assisting Hamish with management of the website as appropriate. We thank our fellow staff and the Council for their support throughout the year. The many referees who have given generously of their time and provided valuable feedback to the authors are crucial partners in maintaining the quality of the *Journal*; we extend our deep gratitude to them on behalf of the Officers and Council.
- Members may have noticed that beginning with the September 2014 issue we have been using a new type of paper, one which allows for higher quality reproductions of photographs and line drawings. Also of note Hamish is now making electronic versions of each issue available in advance of the print copy; this helps with issue timeliness and frees us from constraints related to the printing company's production schedules.
- We continue to actively solicit special issues on particular themes with guest editors, given our recent successes in this area. The most recent special issue (June 2014) was *Extraordinary Polynesian Women: Writing their Stories*, with Guest Editor Phyllis Herda. We remind members that special issues can be individually purchased by friends and colleagues outside the Society for only \$15 each.

- Finally, this year has seen a significant increase in our *Facebook* audience. We now have 632 “likes”, more than double the number of followers relative to the start of this year. Our posts are averaging around 100 views a piece. A recent highlight was a message from New Zealand actress Rena Owen (of *Once Were Warriors* fame) letting us know that we’re doing a great job. We encourage Society members to visit the *Facebook* page every now and then, as Ben posts items of general interest semi-regularly.

Huntsman/Benton: “That the Hon. Editors Report be adopted.” Carried.

Election of Officers

Having been duly nominated and seconded, the following were elected to hold office until the year 2016 AGM:

President: Richard Benton
 Hon. Secretary: Rangimarie Rawiri
 Hon. Treasurer: Rangimarie Rawiri
 Hon. Co-Editors: Judith Huntsman and Melinda Allen

Election of Council Members

The following, whose nominations were duly nominated and seconded, were elected as Members of the Council for two years: Lyn Carter, Hamish Macdonald, Marama Muru-Lanning, Michael Reilly.

Election of Reviewers

Rawiri/Allen: “That Tane & Assocs., Chartered Accountants be the elected Reviewers.” Carried.

General Business

To approve minor modifications in the Rules of the Society as approved by Council in order to update them to current practice.

The following Resolution was moved.

Rawiri/Huntsman: “That Council approve the Change to Rule 6 and Rule 11 of the Society”

6. Every application for membership shall be made in writing setting out the name and full postal address of the applicant OR by payment online with details provided. Any new member may receive on request a copy of the Rules of the Society.
11. There shall be a register of members maintained in which shall be recorded the name and address or email address of each member together with such other particulars as the Council may from time to time require.

Carried.

The President Dr Richard Benton thanked the Council and members for their support during the year.

There being no more business, the President thanked members for their attendance and declared the 2015 AGM meeting closed at 6:00pm

Following the AGM: the Elsdon Best Memorial Medal was presented to Prof. Emeritus Keith Sorrenson, after which Prof. Sorrenson gave an address entitled 'The Lore of the Judges: Native Land Court Judges' Interpretations of Māori Custom Law'

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